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Amendment to the Claims

1. (Canceled).
2. (Canceled).
3. (Canceled).
4. (Canceled).
5. (Canceled).
6. (Canceled).
7. (Canceled).
8. (Canceled).
9. (Canceled).
10. (Canceled).
11. (Canceled).
12. (Canceled).
13. (Canceled).
14. (Canceled).
15. (Canceled).
16. (Canceled).
17. (Canceled).
18. (Canceled).
19. (Canceled).
20. (Canceled).
21. (Canceled).
22. (Canceled).
23. (Canceled).
24. (Canceled).
25. (Canceled).
26. (Canceled).
27. (Currently amended) A method of evaluating a test compound for treating sepsis syndrome, comprising:

(a) developing experimental animals modeling sepsis syndrome, comprising infecting experimental immunocompromised animals and control immunocompromised animals of the same species with a pathogen species ~~a pathogen species~~ capable of causing sepsis in the animal species, wherein the survival rate of the experimental immunocompromised infected animals ~~in the model system~~ is 10-90%;

(b) administering a test compound to the experimental animals;

(c) obtaining biological samples from the experimental and control animals at a selected timepoint following infection;

(d) measuring the amounts of a plurality of analytes in the biological samples;
and

(e) determining ~~the scores for the~~ biological samples from the experimental and control animals using a discrimination function for the animal species, wherein the discrimination function is $19(\text{MCP-1-JE}) + 27(\text{IL-6}) + 18(\text{MCP-3}) + 21(\text{IL-3}) + 18(\text{MIP-1}\beta) + 25(\text{KC-GRO})$; and

~~whereby if (f) evaluating the test compound is determined to be effective in causing~~ for suitability as a candidate drug for treating sepsis syndrome based on its effectiveness in causing a statistically significant change in the score for the biological ~~sample~~ samples from the experimental animals compared to the score for the biological samples from the control animals, ~~the test compound is a candidate drug for treating sepsis syndrome.~~

28. (Original). The method of claim 27 wherein said test compound is a modulator of vascular endothelial growth factor, monocyte chemoattractant protein 1, or peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma.

29. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein said survival rate of immunocompromised infected animals in the model system is 30-70%.

30. (Original). The method of claim 27 wherein the test compound is a toll-like receptor (TLR) inhibitor.

31. (Currently amended). ~~The method of claim 27, further comprising administering an antibiotic to the animals~~ A method of evaluating a test compound for treating sepsis syndrome, comprising:

(a) developing experimental animals modeling sepsis syndrome, comprising infecting experimental immunocompromised animals and control immunocompromised animals of the same species with a pathogen species capable of causing sepsis in the animal species, wherein the survival rate of the experimental immunocompromised infected animals is 10-90%;

(b) administering a test compound to the experimental animals;

(c) obtaining biological samples from the experimental and control animals at a selected timepoint following infection;

(d) measuring the amounts of a plurality of analytes in the biological samples, wherein the analytes comprise Apolipoprotein A1, β 2 Microglobulin, C Reactive Protein, D-dimer, EGF, Endothelin-1, Eotaxin, Factor VII, FGF-9, FGF-Basic, Fibrinogen, GCP-2, LIX, GM-CSF, Growth Hormone, GST, Haptoglobin, IFN- α , IgA, IL-10, IL-11, IL-12p70, IL-17, IL-18, IL-1 α , IL-1 β , IL-2, IL-3, IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-7, Insulin, IP-10, KC-GRO, Leptin, LIF, Lymphotoxin, MCP-1-JE, MCP-3, MCP-5, M-CSF, MDC, MIP-1 α , MIP-1 β , MIP-1 γ , MIP-2, MIP-3 β , Myoglobin, OSM, RANTES, SCF, SGOT, TIMP-1, Tissue Factor, TNF- α , TPO, VCAM-1, VEGF, and VWF;

(e) determining scores for the biological samples from the experimental and control animals using a discrimination function for the animal species; and

(f) evaluating the test compound for suitability as a candidate drug for treating sepsis syndrome based on its effectiveness in causing a statistically significant change in the score for the biological samples from the experimental animals compared to the score for the biological samples from the control animals.

32. (Canceled).

33. (Canceled).

34. (Canceled).

35. (Canceled).

36. (Canceled).

37. (Canceled).

38. (Canceled).

39. (Canceled).

40. (Canceled).

41. (Canceled).

42. (Canceled).

43. (Canceled).

44. (Canceled).